- Delay in release of funds by the respective State Government.
- Clearance of projects from Forest/Environmental Department located in forest areas.

(c) Department of Tourism, Government of India has proposed to develop six travel circuits in the country on an annual basis in the Tenth Five Year Plan. The details of the circuits will be finalised in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations.

Integrated approach to tourism

3217. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to introduce a comprehensive tourism policy as declared by the Prime Minister in his last Independence speech;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed policy; and

(c) in what manner the policy would address the co-ordination between the Ministries of Civil Aviation, Home, etc. for an integrated approach to tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Draft of a Tourism Policy has been prepared which broadly aims at the following:

- to position tourism as a major engine of economic growth;
- to harness the direct and multiplier effects of tourism for employment generation, economic development and to provide impetus to rural tourism;
- to focus on domestic tourism as a way or driver of tourism growth;
- to position India as a global brand to take advantage of the burgeoning global travel and trade and the vast untapped potential of India as a destination;

- to acknowledge the critical role of private sector with government working as a proactive facilitator and catalyst;
- to create and develop integrated tourism circuits based on India's unique civilization, heritage, and culture in partnership with States, private sector and other agencies;
- to ensure that the tourist to India gets physically invigorated, mentally rejuvenated, culturally enriched, spiritually elevated and "feels India from within".

(c) The policy recognises the need for effective linkages and close coordination among such Departments as Civil Aviation, Environment, Forest, Railways, Home etc. for an integrated approach to tourism.

Funds released for holding fairs and festivals in A.P.

3218. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether grants are being provided to Andhra Pradesh for holding fairs and festivals in the State as measures of tourism promotion there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fairs and festivals promoted during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism, Government of India provides grants-in-aid for celebration of fairs and festivals on the basis of projects prioritised every year in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations.